

their patience and ask them to be vigilant. The inconvenience is—occurs because we will take the steps necessary to protect the American people.

Again, I appreciate the close cooperation between our Government and the Government of the United Kingdom. The American people need to know, we live in a dangerous world, but our Government will do everything we can to protect our people from those dangers.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:54 a.m. at Austin Straubel International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Remarks on the National Economy in Green Bay

August 10, 2006

The President. John, thank you very much for your hospitality.

John E. West. You're welcome, Mr. President.

The President. I understand that the small-business sector of our economy is vital for economic growth. And that's why we cut taxes on people like—on businesses like John's business. See, when you reduce the income taxes, you affect many small businesses. And when he's got more money in his treasury to invest, the workers become more productive.

The reason why this company is successful is, one, they've got a good product; but, more importantly, they've got a workforce that is skilled and capable and treated well.

The bonus appreciation—accelerated depreciation schedules we passed for small businesses helped John buy new equipment. And when you buy new equipment, it helps the folks behind me become more productive; and the more productive you are, the better wages you make.

And so I'm here to herald small businesses in America and to remind the American people that by cutting taxes on small businesses, it encourages small businesses to grow. John was telling me they hired five new people over the past 3 weeks, and he's looking for

more workers—workers that can do the job necessary to put out a good product.

I also want to make it clear that Congress needs to keep the taxes low on the working people. I'd much rather have these people spend their own money than the Government. We've got ample money in Washington to do what we need to do. And therefore, in my judgment, it's better that the folks behind me who are working hard, have more money so they can save and invest and spend as they see fit. So I'm here to herald the tax cuts as they affected the small businesses of America but also as they affect the families of Wisconsin and America.

John, I want to thank you. I'm impressed by your operation. I particularly want to thank your workers for giving me a chance to come by and meet you. America is blessed by having a highly-skilled workforce like we have, and that enables us to compete. This is a competitive company. It's a company that can't fill every order it gets because they're constrained by being able to find enough workers. It's one of the issues that faces America: Can we compete? And one way we compete is to make sure our education system educates people who've got the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century, just like they're being filled here at this company.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. at Fox Valley Metal-Tech, Inc. Participating in the event was John E. West, president, Fox Valley Metal-Tech, Inc. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Kleptocracy

August 10, 2006

For too long, the culture of corruption has undercut development and good governance and bred criminality and mistrust around the world. High-level corruption by senior government officials, or kleptocracy, is a grave and corrosive abuse of power and represents the most invidious type of public corruption. It threatens our national interest and violates our values. It impedes our efforts to promote freedom and democracy, end poverty, and combat international crime and terrorism.

Kleptocracy is an obstacle to democratic progress, undermines faith in government institutions, and steals prosperity from the people. Promoting transparent, accountable governance is a critical component of our freedom agenda.

At this year's G-8 meeting in St. Petersburg, my colleagues joined me in calling for strengthened international efforts to deny kleptocrats access to our financial systems and safe haven in our countries; stronger efforts to combat fraud, corruption, and misuse of public resources; and increased capacity internationally to prevent opportunities for high-level public corruption. Today I am announcing a new element in my administration's plan to fight kleptocracy, the National Strategy to Internationalize Efforts Against Kleptocracy, which sets forth a framework to deter, prevent, and address high-level public corruption. It identifies critical tools to detect and prosecute corrupt officials around the world, so that the promise of economic assistance and growth reaches the people.

Our objective is to defeat high-level public corruption in all its forms and to deny corrupt officials access to the international financial system as a means of defrauding their people and hiding their ill-gotten gains. Given the nature of our open, accessible international financial system, our success in fighting kleptocracy will depend upon the participation and accountability of our partner nations, the international financial community, and regional and multilateral development institutions. Together, we can confront kleptocracy and help create the conditions necessary for people everywhere to enjoy the full benefits of honest, just, and accountable governance.

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Najaf, Iraq

August 11, 2006

The terrorists in Iraq have again proven that they are enemies of all humanity. Yesterday they targeted innocent civilians in Najaf near a holy Muslim shrine—and a symbol of peace throughout the world.

According to Iraqi officials, the terrorist who committed this atrocity was stopped by Iraqi police before he could enter the holy shrine. These police officers were killed in the attack. They died for their country and for the cause of freedom, and we honor their dedication and bravery. We also mourn the loss of every innocent life in this atrocity and other atrocities perpetrated in Iraq in recent months.

On behalf of the American people, I join Iraqi leaders of all communities who have condemned this barbarous action in the strongest possible terms. To the Iraqi people, I pledge the commitment of the United States to helping your new Government bring peace and security to all areas of your country.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 5

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

August 6

In the morning, the President and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley participated in a video teleconference with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

August 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.